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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/715,935

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Xiangxin Bi

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DARDI & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

220 S. 6TH ST.

SUITE 2000, U.S. BANK PLAZA

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

EXAMINER

STOUFFER, KELLY M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1792

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/14/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

The amendments filed 6 February 2008 will not be entered after final because they raise issues that would require further consideration and search by the examiner. Arguments drawn to the claim amendments were fully considered, but will not be answered here as the amendments were not entered. As for the applicants' arguments regarding the combination of Thaler and Whitney, the applicant argues that using the apparatus of Thaler in the Whitney apparatus renders the Whitney apparatus unusable. However, the rejection is made over Thaler in view of Whitney. Thaler does not include moving the substrate relative to the flow of the product stream but does describe a desire to coat large substrates (column 9 lines 34-53). Whitney et al. teaches moving the substrate relative to the product stream (column 7 lines 41-48). One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that allowing the substrate to move would coat larger substrates more easily, and in addition, all the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. See *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 550 U.S.--, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007). Though Thaler uses the energy beam to enact either a physical or chemical change on the reactants and Whitney et al. uses the energy beam to melt the reactants (abstract), it would be readily apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that the chemical or physical change depends upon the reactants used.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, the rejections of the previous office action are maintained.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KELLY STOUFFER whose telephone number is (571)272-2668. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks can be reached on (571) 272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Timothy H Meeks/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1792

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Art Unit: 1792

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Kelly Stouffer  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1792

kms